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'Tweens, Teens, and Technology in the Language Arts: There's an App for That!'

Presented by
Melissa Jones-Bromenshenkel mljones2@eiu.edu and Ashley Wishard
Eastern Illinois University

iPad App Evaluation Guiding Questions

Education Apps

- ☐ For what age group(s) is the application appropriate?
- ☐ How would a teacher incorporate the application into the classroom?
- ☐ Does this app allow you to do something you were unable to do in the past?
- ☐ Does the app address more than one learning style (visual, auditory, kinesthetic)?
- ☐ Can more than one user account be set up?
- ☐ Does the app allow for progress monitoring of multiple users?
- ☐ Can student data be sent to the teacher or parent via email?
- ☐ How much instruction will need to be provided on use of the app?
- ☐ Will the app meet the needs of all students in the class or will it be used with a specific subgroup?
- ☐ Does the app provide enough positive reinforcement to hold the interest of the students?

Utility/Organization Apps

- ☐ How will this help a teacher organize and manage information in the classroom?
- ☐ How will this app help you to work smarter, not harder?
- ☐ Does the app have an easy to use format?
- ☐ How would this app benefit students?

Access Handouts on the IRC Ning or Scanning the QR Code

"Tweens, Teens, and Technology in the Language Arts: There's an App for That"

Melissa Jones-Bromenshenkel mljones2@eu.edu and Ashley Wishard, Eastern Illinois University

7th Grade Language Arts

\$5.99

All areas—Lesson, Practice, Examples, etc.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/itooch-7th-grade-language/id521723598?mt=8>

Make Dice Lite

Free

For Story Writing, Choosing, Defining Vocab, Describing Characters/Events/Etc/

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/make-dice-lite/id379873571?mt=8>

Shake-A-Phrase

\$1.99

Grammar, Sentence Structure, Creative Writing, Vocabulary

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/make-dice-lite/id379873571?mt=8>

Sticky Words

Free and Customizable

Like Refrigerator Magnets—can do word sorts, writing, poetry, etc.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/stickywords/id513192201?mt=8>

Tools 4 Students and Tools 4 Students 2

\$.99 each

Organizers, Response Sheets, etc.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tools-4-students/id472911218?mt=8>

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tools-4-students-2/id645375072?mt=8>

Read and Respond

\$.99

Questions for Responses at various levels of Bloom's

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/readrespond/id545919500?mt=8>

Lino (Like Sticky Notes)

Free

Can be used to categorize, plan, etc.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/lino-sticky-photo-sharing/id416718906?mt=8>

Other

Other

Areas of New ILS in ELA

Reading	Writing	Listening and Speaking	Language
Brush of Truth \$1.99 Choose Your Own Adventure Story https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/brush-of-truth/id500563146?mt=8	Story Spark \$2.99 Creative Ideas for Development of Stories https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/story-spark/id586718796?mt=8	Heads Up \$.99 From Ellen DeGeneres Give Clues/Guess Word (categories) https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/heads-up/id623592465?mt=8	Infercubulary \$14.99/ Lite Version Vocabulary (many real photos) https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/infercubulary/id796698831?mt=8
Subtext Free Annotation https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/subtext/id457556753?mt=8	Idea Machine \$.99 Creative Ideas for Various Types of Writing Practice (e.g. lists, responses to questions, etc.) https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/idea-machine/id586718796?mt=8	Flipgrid Free Reflection, Response, video https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/flipgrid/id756972930?mt=8	Word Ladder Daily vocab development Free https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/word-ladder/id431089283?mt=8
Today's Doc Free Articles and Info from the National Archives https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/today-s-document/id412969819?mt=8	Trading Cards Free https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/trading-cards/id555742821?mt=8	Tellagami Free Animate and add voice https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tellagami/id572737805?mt=8	The Right Word \$1.99 Choosing Vocab, Incorrect Usage, definitions https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/the-right-word/id761529361?mt=8

Docs Teach Free Primary Sources and Activities https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/national-archives-docsteach/id513465174?mt=8	Visual Poetry \$1.99 Arranging Words and Thoughts into an image https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/visual-poetry-word-collage/id364299857?mt=8	Explain Everything \$2.99 Annotate, narrate, animate https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/explain-everything/id431493086?mt=8	Visual Thesaurus Dictionary \$.99 See and connect words and meaning https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/thesaurus-visual-english-dictionary/id763708501?mt=8
Best Books Free Recommendations for ages 8-12 Can sort by category, title, make own list, etc. https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/best-books-for-tweens/id431558984?mt=8	Spellboard \$4.99 Make your own quizzes (in any language), share, activities https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/spe llboard/id390290951?mt=8	Smithsonian Free Videos on various topics (non-fiction) https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smithsonian-channel-for-ipad/id482096908?mt=8	Opposites \$.99 Meanings and Antonyms/Synonyms https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/the-opposites/id480194638?mt=8
iBiography \$1.99 Factual Articles on more than 150 Famous People https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/i-biography-educational-motivational/id697921970?mt=8	Book Creator \$4.99 Develop Books, add photos, write info, etc. https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/book-creator-for-ipad-create/id442378070?mt=8	StoryKit Free Allows for recording voice in the story you develop https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/storykit/id329374595?mt=8	Synonyms Quiz Thesaurus and Dictionary Free https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/synonyms-quiz+-thesaurus/id561027523?mt=8
Who Comics Free Bill Gates and Oprah Winfrey (more available \$\$\$) https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/biography-comics-who-29-great/id455194764?mt=8	Word Creativity Kit \$2.99 Developing Creative Writing Creative Writing https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/world-creativity-kit-creative/id825981779?mt=8	Educreations Free Allows you to "Show and Tell" Anything https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/educreations-interactive-whiteboard/id478617061?mt=8	

News-O-Matic Free 10 editions Daily News Stories for Younger Kids ('tweens) https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/news-o-matic-daily-reading/id578023255?mt=8	iBrainstorm Free Brainstorming/Collaboration Tool https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ibrainstorm/id382252825?mt=8	Scary Story Kit—Tools for Telling Scary Stories \$.99 Halloween fun https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/scary-story-kit-tools-for/id470146012?mt=8	
Reflection While Reading Free Walks through Questions to Think About for any text https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/reflection-while-reading/id527138832?mt=8	Comic Book! \$.1.99 Allows the student to make comic books—variety of stickers, layouts, fonts, captions, pictures, etc. https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/comicbook/id436114747?mt=8		
Shakespeare Free (upgrade to pro for \$9.99) https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/shakespeare/id285035416?mt=8	Essay Writing Guide \$2.99 Uses “wheels” to provide reference info in the areas of: Content, Style, Organization, Mechanics https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/essay-writing-guide/id474987099?mt=8		
Other	Other	Other	Other
Other	Other	Other	Other

Educational App Evaluation Checklist

App Name:

Purpose for App:

✓

	Use of app is relevant to the purpose and student needs
	Help or tutorial is available in the app
	Content is appropriate for the student
	Information is error-free, factual, and reliable
	Content can be exported, copied, or printed
	App's settings and/or content can be customized
	Customized content can be transferred to other devices
	History is kept of student use of the app
	Design of app is functional and visually stimulating
	Student can exit app at any time without losing progress
	Works with accessibility options like VoiceOver and Speak Selection
	App is free of charge
	No in-app purchases are necessary for intended use of app
	App loads quickly and does not crash
	App contains no advertising
	App has been updated in the last 6 months
	App promotes creativity and imagination
	App provides opportunities to use higher order thinking skills
	App promotes collaboration and idea sharing
	App provides useful feedback
	Total ✓s <i>The more checks, the better the app is for education</i>

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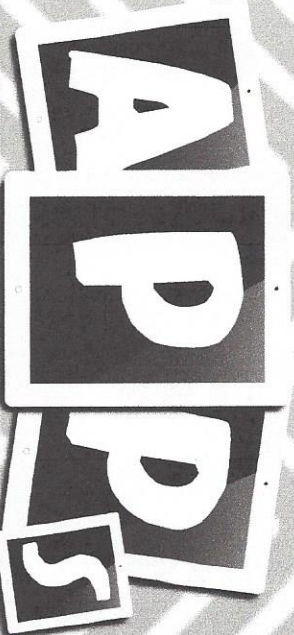
Educational App Evaluation Rubric

Purpose for App: _____

	4	3	2	1
Relevance	The app's focus has a strong connection to the purpose for the app and appropriate for the student	The app's focus is related to the purpose for the app and mostly appropriate for the student	Limited connection to the purpose for the app and may not be appropriate for the student	Does not connect to the purpose for the app and not appropriate for the student
Customization	App offers complete flexibility to alter content and settings to meet student needs	App offers some flexibility to alter content and settings to meet student needs	App offers limited flexibility to adjust content and settings to meet student needs	App offers no flexibility to meet student needs
Feedback	Student is provided specific feedback	Student is provided feedback	Student is provided limited feedback	Student is not provided feedback
Thinking Skills	App encourages the use of higher order thinking skills including creating, evaluating, and analyzing	App facilitates the use of higher order thinking skills including evaluating, analyzing, and applying	App facilitates the use of mostly lower order thinking skills like understanding and remembering	App is limited to the use of lower order thinking skills like understanding and remembering
Usability	Student can launch and operate the app independently	Student needs to have a teacher show or model how to operate the app	Student needs to be cued each time the app is used	App is difficult to operate or crashes often
Engagement	Student is highly motivated to use the app	Student uses the app as directed by the teacher	Student perceives app as "more schoolwork" and may be off-task when directed to use the app	Student avoids the use of the app and might complain when its use is required
Sharing	Specific performance summary or student product is saved in app and can be exported to the teacher or for an audience	Performance data or student product is available in app but exporting is limited and may require a screenshot	Limited performance data or student product is not accessible	No performance summary or student product is saved

Student App Review Rubric

Reviewer: _____
App Reviewed: _____



	4	3	2	1	0	Score
Appeal: Looks & Sounds	Excellent graphics and sound. Very appealing. Enhanced my experience.	Good graphics and sounds. Enhanced my learning.	Average sound and graphics. Limited appeal, but a little distracting.	Low quality graphics and sounds. Distracted from app's purpose.	Boring and unappealing.	
Engagement/ Motivation	This app kept me highly motivated and engaged throughout my time with it.	This kept me motivated and engaged most of the time.	Somewhat engaging, but lost motivation after a short time.	Barely motivated.	Boring	
User Friendly Directions & Instructions	Very easy to learn and directions are clear and simple to follow	Easy to learn and direction can be followed.	Kind of difficult to learn. Directions are limited.	Very complex to learn. No directions available	What am I supposed to do with this app?	
Performance/ Ease of Use	Performs and loads quickly. No issues and very reliable	Performs and Loads quickly. Some minor technical issues.	Loads and performs slowly. Sometimes Crashes.	Crashes fairly often and takes multiple times to open.	Won't open. Won't run. Filled with bugs.	
Differentiation in Learning	I can customize the app for myself. Four or more levels difficulty	Some customization. Three levels of difficulty	Little customization and two levels of difficulty.	No customization and one level of difficulty.	Ughhhh.	



Highlight: _____

Lowlight: _____

Scoring: **Great** **Good** **Average** **Needs Work** **BAD**
 20-17 16-13 12-10 9-6 5-0

120
Total